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To Tami Fordham, Richard Parkin
cc
bcc
Subject RELEASE: EPA Receives Overwhelming Support at Public Meetings in Bristol Bay

2 attachments



BBNCrelease-EPA061112.pdf



EPA Hearing Results Summary 6-8-12.pdf

Tami and Rick,

See below and attached. Please share with your team, and we once again extend our thanks for a well run and comprehensive series of hearings.

Best,
Peter



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 11, 2012

Contact:
Carmell Shade
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EPA Receives Overwhelming Support at Public Meetings in Bristol Bay

Anchorage, AK – Eight public meetings held by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) over the past week and a half on its Draft Bristol Bay Watershed Assessment drew nearly 2,300 attendees and about 450 oral comments, according to a tally compiled by BBNC (see attached). A clear majority of the public comment—more than 80 percent—was supportive of EPA's work on the assessment.

Support for the watershed assessment was highest in the Bristol Bay region, where 1,000 people

attended; more than 90 percent of the 275 oral comments presented were in favor of EPA and the assessment.

“This overwhelmingly positive turnout shows that the region appreciates and supports EPA’s effort and the appropriate urgency with which it is being handled,” said Jason Metrokin, President and CEO of Bristol Bay Native Corporation. “That EPA could gather more than a thousand pages of evidence showing certain risk to salmon habitat and our way of life—based on existing, published science—underscores just how serious the threat is from large-scale development such as the proposed Pebble mine, and how critical the need is for action to protect our region.”

The region was supportive because “the findings are in line with our traditional knowledge,” said BBNC Board Chairman Joe Chythlook. Turnout demonstrates that EPA’s timeframe for receiving public comment by July 23 is more than sufficient, he added. “Even though people in the region are busy with commercial and subsistence fishing preparations, most have been prepared for the release of the assessment for some time now.”

About BBNC: BBNC is one of 13 Alaska Native Regional Corporations formed under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971. The corporation has over 9,000 Eskimo, Aleut, and Athabascan shareholders with ancestral ties to the Bristol Bay region. BBNC supports responsible resource development, defined as development that is fiscally, environmentally and socially sustainable, serving the long-term interests of our people, our region, and our businesses.

More information can be found at www.bbnc.net.

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EPA Draft Bristol Bay Watershed Assessment

Public Hearings

Summary of Initial Results

ALL HEARING TOTALS:

Meeting Attendees:	~2294
People Testifying :	453
Testimonies supporting EPA and watershed assessment:	364
% or Total testifiers that support EPA and assessment:	80.3%

BRISTOL BAY REGIONAL HEARING TOTALS

Meeting Attendees:	~964
People Testifying :	275
Testimonies supporting EPA and watershed assessment:	258
% or Total testifiers that support EPA and assessment:	93.8%

HEARING-BY-HEARING BREAKDOWN

Seattle, May 31, 2012

- > ~330 people in attendance.
- > 71 people testified, with 81% (58 of 71) supportive of EPA and watershed assessment.

Anchorage, June 4, 2012

- > ~1,000 people in attendance.
- > 107 people testified, with 45% (48 of 107) supportive of EPA and watershed assessment.

Dillingham, June 5, 2012

- > ~325 people at DLG hearing.
- > 90 people testified and 100% were supportive of EPA and watershed assessment.

Naknek, June 5, 2012

- > ~280 people at Naknek hearing
- > 61 people testified, with 93% (57 of 61) supportive of EPA and watershed assessment.

June 8, 2012

Levelock, June 6, 2012

- > ~60 people present.
- > 25 people testified and 100% were supportive of EPA and watershed assessment.

Igiugig, June 6, 2012

- > ~75 people present.
- > 25 people testified, with 88% (22 of 25) supportive of EPA and watershed assessment.

New Stuyahok, June 7, 2012

- > ~124 people present.
- > 41 people testified, with 92% (38 of 41) supportive of EPA and watershed assessment.

Nondalton, June 7, 2012

- > 100 people present.
- > 33 people testified, with 79% (26 of 33) supportive of EPA and watershed assessment.

**For information on the manner in which these numbers were collected please contact:
Daniel Cheyette, Attorney, Bristol Bay Native Corporation. (907) 278-3602**

June 8, 2012